

## Paul Uses the Law with Felix

### Acts 24:1-27

**Acts 24:1** *Ananias* along with Sadducees...on attack against Paul.

**Orator:** a *speaker*, forensic, lawyer, teacher of rhetoric.

**Informed:** brought an indictment or an accusation

1. Exordium (vv 2-4). Praise your audience

2. Charge (vv 5-6)

1<sup>st</sup>: Sedition

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sectarianism

3<sup>rd</sup>: Desecration of the temple

3. Conclusion (vv 7-9)

**Acts 24:10-11** *Then Paul...* I was only in Jerusalem as a visitor and there to worship (point: so, how can they accuse me of sacrilege?).

**Acts 24:12-13** I wasn't in Jerusalem long enough to plan and execute the type of sedition Tertullus and these men are accusing me of.

**Acts 24:14-15** Paul knows that if he presents this Historic Jewish belief to Felix before these men who want to be perceived as representatives of Jewish belief and they erupt ...Felix's eyes opened.

**Acts 24:16** *And herein do I exercise myself, ...* Last time Paul made a statement like this the high priest had his mouth bloodied.

**Acts 24:17** I came to Jerusalem to bring money and relief to my people.

**Acts 24:18** *Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me ...*

*The Asiatic Jews found me ... I wasn't there with tumult (uproar, disturbance). I was peacefully worshipping God in the temple.*

**Acts 24:19** Roman law strong against accusers who abandoned their charges

My accusers not here. Wonder why!

**Acts 24:20-21** The resurrection of the dead is bottom line of why I am standing in front of you

Belief in resurrection not a criminal offense ...this is a doctrinal and theological issue.

**Acts 24:22** *He deferred them:* put them off. Adjourned the hearing.

**Acts 24:23-24** ... *concerning the faith in Christ.* Whole embodiment of Christian truth

**Acts 24:25** *Reasoned:* say thoroughly, speak, reason

**Righteousness:** requirements of justice and right actions before a holy God.

**Temperance:** chastity, self-government, self-control, restraint, abstinence from ungodly things, moderation in appetites, passions, and motives and desires in general.

**Judgment to come:** Time of accountability before a holy God. Paul preached law to Felix and Drusilla. The law condemns. Gal 3:24

Important aspects of law: Rom 7:7-13

1. Puts on display and exposes sin.
2. Stirs up sin
3. Puts sinner to death
4. Manifests sinfulness of sin

**Acts 24:25** ...*Felix trembled:* afraid, terrified, frightened.

**Convenient season** Kairos – epoch of time. Window of time. Opportunity.

Never put off making a decision concerning the known will of God. Heb. 3:7-8

**Acts 24:26** *He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, ...*

Felix had idea that Paul had access to great sums of money

*He sent for him the oftener* – more vigorously, more frequently.

*And communed with him* – conversed with him. Spent time with him.

**Acts 24:27** *But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room:* Took over as governor.

Mac: *Felix stands for all time as a tragic example of missed opportunity. ...*

*Left Paul bound* – Left him in custody to charge of his successor.

## So What?

Approach in giving gospel – don't shy away from using the law..

Conviction of the Holy Spirit – window of opportunity... obey!